

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention provides a cytochrome P450-encoding gene, *DAS5*, as well as an altered gene, *das5-D*, which are involved in the synthesis of the plant steroid hormone brassinolide. The *das5-D* mutant has an insertion of a T-DNA containing transcriptional enhancers into its promoter region. Overexpression of the mutant thus produces large amounts of *DAS5* transcript. The expression of this *das5-D* mutation or overexpression of the *DAS5* gene in transgenic plants causes such plants to become significantly larger and more robust than their wild-type counterparts, thus increasing plant yields.

PATENT

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